IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus, comprising:

extracting means for extracting data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in a three-dimensional image from data representing ~~a~~ the three-dimensional image;

image rendering means for rendering the three-dimensional image;

antialiased image forming means for forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting means for overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

2. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said extracting means extracts data representing contour lines of the depicted object ~~three-dimensional image~~ as the data representing the predetermined line part or extracts data representing the contour lines and contour candidates of the depicted object ~~three-dimensional image~~ as the data representing the predetermined line part.

3. (previously presented) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image rendering means renders the three-dimensional image using polygon information that represents the three-dimensional image, and said extracting means extracts the data representing the predetermined line part by extracting a corresponding part of the polygon information.

4. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined line part passes through a plurality of pixels, and said antialiased image forming means generates pixel values for each of the plurality

of pixels as a function of an occupancy value of that pixel, the occupancy value of ~~the~~ a respective pixel being based on a ratio of an area of an occupied portion of the pixel to an area of the pixel, the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by a portion of the predetermined line part that passes through the pixel when the predetermined line part is a straight line, ~~and~~ the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by an ideal straight line segment which approximates the portion of the predetermined line part when the predetermined line part is curved.

5. (previously presented) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the portion of the predetermined line part or the ideal straight line segment forms an angle with an X-axis, and said antialiased image forming means antialiases a range of pixels along the X-axis when the angle is equal to or larger than a predetermined value and antialiases a range of pixels along a Y-axis that is orthogonal to the X-axis when the angle is smaller than the predetermined value.

6. (previously presented) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of pixels is divided into a matrix of sub-pixels, and said antialiased image forming means determines the area of the occupied portion of the pixel in units of sub-pixel areas.

7. (currently amended) An image rendering method, comprising:

extracting data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in a three-dimensional image from data representing ~~a~~ the three-dimensional image;

rendering the three-dimensional image;

forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

8. (currently amended) An image rendering method according to claim 7, wherein said step of extracting the data representing the predetermined line part includes extracting data representing contour lines of the depicted object ~~three-dimensional image~~ or extracting data representing the contour lines and contour candidates of the depicted object ~~three-dimensional image~~.

9. (previously presented) An image rendering method according to claim 7, wherein said step of rendering an image includes rendering the three-dimensional image using polygon information that represents the three-dimensional image, and said step of extracting the data representing the predetermined line part includes extracting a corresponding part of the polygon information.

10. (currently amended) An image rendering method according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined line part passes through a plurality of pixels, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes generating pixel values for each of the plurality of pixels as a function of an occupancy value of that pixel, the occupancy value of ~~the~~ a respective pixel being based on a ratio of an area of an occupied portion of the pixel to an area of the pixel, the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by a portion of the predetermined line part that passes through the pixel when the predetermined line part is a straight line, ~~and~~ the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by an ideal straight line segment which approximates the portion of the predetermined line part when the predetermined line part is curved.

11. (previously presented) An image rendering method according to claim 10, wherein the portion of the

predetermined line part or the ideal straight line segment forms an angle with an X-axis, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes antialiasing a range of pixels along the X-axis when the angle is equal to or larger than a predetermined value and antialiasing a range of pixels along a Y-axis that is orthogonal to the X-axis when the angle is smaller than the predetermined value.

12. (previously presented) An image rendering method according to claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of pixels is divided into a matrix of sub-pixels, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes determining the area of the occupied portion of the pixel in units of sub-pixel areas.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored therein for operating an apparatus to perform an image rendering method, said method comprising:

extracting data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in a three-dimensional image from data representing ~~a~~ the three-dimensional image;

rendering the three-dimensional image;

forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

14. (currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said step of extracting the data representing the predetermined line part includes extracting data representing contour lines of the depicted object ~~three-dimensional image~~ or extracting data representing the contour lines and contour candidates of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

15. (previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said step of rendering an image includes rendering the three-dimensional image using polygon information that represents the three-dimensional image, and said step of extracting the data representing the predetermined line part includes extracting a corresponding part of the polygon information.

16. (currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined line part passes through a plurality of pixels, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes generating pixel values for each of the plurality of pixels as a function of an occupancy value of that pixel, the occupancy value of ~~the~~ a respective pixel being based on a ratio of an area of an occupied portion of the pixel to an area of the pixel, the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by a portion of the predetermined line part that passes through the pixel when the predetermined line part is a straight line, ~~and~~ the area of the occupied portion of the pixel being based on an area occupied by an ideal straight line segment which approximates the portion of the predetermined line part when the predetermined line part is curved.

17. (previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 16, wherein the portion of the predetermined line part or the ideal straight line segment forms an angle with an X-axis, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes antialiasing a range of pixels along the X-axis when the angle is equal to or larger than a predetermined value and antialiasing a range of pixels along a Y-axis that is orthogonal to the X-axis when the angle is smaller than the predetermined value.

18. (previously presented) A storage medium according to claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of pixels

is divided into a matrix of sub-pixels, and said step of forming the antialiased image portion includes determining the area of the occupied portion of the pixel in units of sub-pixel areas.

19. (currently amended) A server apparatus, comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium for storing a computer program for operating an apparatus to perform an image rendering method; and

distributing means for distributing the computer program stored on the computer-readable storage medium;

wherein the method includes:

extracting data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in a three-dimensional image from data representing ~~a~~ the three-dimensional image;

rendering the three-dimensional image;

forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

20. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored therein for operating an apparatus to perform an image rendering method, said method comprising:

extracting a portion of data from data representing a three-dimensional image, the portion ~~including~~ of data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in the three-dimensional image;

rendering the three-dimensional image;

forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined line part includes at least a contour of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

22.-28. (cancelled).

29. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined line part represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

30. (currently amended) An image rendering method according to claim 7, wherein the predetermined line part represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

31. (currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined line part represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

32. (currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the portion of data represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

33. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus, comprising:

extracting means for extracting a portion of data from data representing a three-dimensional image, the portion ~~including~~ of data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in the three-dimensional image;

rendering means for rendering the three-dimensional image;

antialiased image forming means for forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting means for overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

34. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the predetermined line part includes at least a contour of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

35. (currently amended) An image rendering apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the portion of data represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

36. (currently amended) An image rendering method, comprising:

extracting a portion of data from data representing a three-dimensional image, the portion ~~including~~ of data representing a predetermined line part of an object depicted in the three-dimensional image;

rendering the three-dimensional image;

forming an antialiased image portion of the predetermined line part of the depicted object by antialiasing the extracted data; and

overwriting only the antialiased image portion onto a corresponding portion of the rendered image.

37. (currently amended) An image rendering method according claim 36, wherein the predetermined line part includes at least a contour of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.

38. (currently amended) An image rendering method according to claim 36, wherein the portion of data represents a visually important portion of the depicted object~~three-dimensional image~~.